

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169645

63

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR: AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169645

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, YO (TOTH LASZLO)

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE

REF: (A) BELGRADE 4453, (B) STATE 168197

1. DURING MEETING TODAY WITH AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI, I
RAISED TOTH CASE NOTING THAT DURING SIMON VISIT WE HAD
AGAIN RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD BE RELEASED
"IN THESE DAYS." I EXPLAINED THAT I WISHED TO RAISE IT
BECAUSE WE DID NOT WANT IT TO GET OUT OF HAND. WE HAD
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT TOTH WAS BECOMING DEPRESSED AND
DESPERATE BECAUSE -- TO HIS KNOWLEDGE -- NOTHING WHAT-
SOEVER WAS BEING DONE TO FREE HIM. WE BELIEVED IT LIKELY
THAT HE WOULD DO SOMETHING TO ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION --
LIKE GOING ON A HUNGER STRIKE. WE HAVE BEEN AND ARE
STILL UNABLE TO SEE HIM -- AND AT THIS POINT WE WOULD
HAVE NOTHING TO TELL HIM. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 169645

DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO RELEASE HIM. THEREFORE, I ASK

THAT YOU SET A DATE FOR HIS RELEASE -- AND THAT YOU TELL HIM AND US. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT HE DOESN'T DO OR SAY ANYTHING TO WORSEN THE SITUATION.

2. BELOVSKI ASSURED ME THAT WE WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND ON THE SAME "WAVE-LENGTH ." HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR THE FAILURE TO RELEASE TOTH. HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT WANT TO RELEASE HIM DURING THE SIMON VISIT BECAUSE IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE YIELDING TO PRESSURE, BUT MORE THAN A WEEK HAD GONE BY AND NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO BELGRADE MY REQUEST THAT THE GOY SET A SPECIFIC DATE FOR HIS RELEASE AND FOR TOTH TO BE INFORMED.

3. I THINK YOU SHOULD FOLLOW UP THIS MEETING AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE MFA. YOU CAN STATE THAT YOU KNOW I HAVE MET WITH BELOVSKI AND HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS GIVE US AN EXACT DATE FOR TOTH'S RELEASE. YOU CAN EMPHASIZE OUR STRONG CONCERN THAT TOTH IS BECOMING DEPRESSED AND DESPERATE AND THAT WE BELIEVE HE MAY DO SOMETHING -- LIKE A HUNGER STRIKE -- TO ATTRACT PUBLIC AND PRESS ATTENTION. YOU CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EARLY ACCESS TO HIM TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING, WHICH IS NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK IF THE DECISION TO RELEASE HIM AND RETURN HIM TO THE US HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, AS WE HAVE BEEN TOLD.

4. WE ARE REPORTING BY SEPTTEL OTHER SUBJECTS, PRIMARILY SECURITY MATTERS, RAISED BY BELOVSKI. KISSINGER

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